

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1007
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Rhoda Cates Hyder of Elizabethton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Rhoda Cates Hyder of Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hyder was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Carter County, she was the daughter of the late Allen and Sallie Whitehead Cates; she was a valuable member of Carter County for her entire life; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Hyder served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher, in which position she earned the respect of her students, peers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; she retired as a teacher from Valley Forge Elementary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hyder was an active and devout member of the church she attended all her life, Doe River Baptist Church; she evinced her deep faith in a variety of important church positions, serving as the Training Union Director, a tireless worker with the youth, Supervisor of the Watauga Lodge of the Watauga Baptist Association, and as Director of the Summer Goodwill Center for the Watauga Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Rhoda Hyder served expertly on the first Tennessee Advisory Council on Aging and later was appointed by former Governor Lamar Alexander to the Tennessee Commission on Aging; she was a member of the Roan Mountain Garden Club, the Hampton Garden Club, the ZETA, IOTA chapter of East Tennessee State University, the Roan Mountain Eastern Star, the Carter County/Elizabethton Senior Citizens, the Elizabethton Woman's Club, and the Daughters of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hyder was a lifetime member of the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association and also served admirably as President of the Carter County PTA Council, Valley

Forge PTA, President of the Carter County Retired Teachers Association, and Elizabethton Public Library Board of Directors; in each of these capacities, she reflected the finest traditions of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Cates Hyder was preceded in death by her husband, Nat E. Hyder, Sr.; daughter, June Evelyn Walsh; grandson, Paul Marshall Hyder; great-grandson, Marine Lance Corporal Nason Michael Hopkins; two sisters, Carrie Street and Pearl Roberts; four brothers, Jim Cates, John Cates, William Cates, and Paul Cates; and a special friend, Dr. Harley Fite; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her son, Dr. Nat Edens Hyder, Jr, and his wife, Elizabeth; daughter, Dr. Lois Gretchen Fortune and her husband, David Lee; twelve grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; several nieces and nephews; and very special friends, Martha Bunton Query and Nancy Garland; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Hyder leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Rhoda Cates Hyder, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Hyder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.